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21 November 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT : Meeting with Mr. Frank Nash, Director "U.S. Base Rights Working Group" on Friday, November 23rd at 4:30 P.M.

1. This memorandum contains information as background for your meeting with Mr. Nash and also recommendations as to what the Agency should do to assist Mr. Nash in accomplishing his mission. Attached for your information are 5 documents:

(1) Letter from the President to Mr. Nash establishing the U.S. Base Rights Working Group, dated 15 October 1956.

(2) An undated message to overseas commanders from the Secretary of Defense explaining the Nash Mission.

(3) Letter from the Acting Secretary of State to ambassadors explaining the Nash Mission.

(4) Memorandum No. 3, 26 October 1956, containing a draft of the political questionnaire that will be forwarded to the embassies.

(5) Memorandum No. 4/2, 19 November 1956, listing those embassies to be queried.

2. I have outlined in red the pertinent portions of the above documents. In the Department of State Mr. Douglas MacArthur II has been named as the focal point for this study, while Assistant Secretary of Defense, Gordon Gray, has been similarly named in that department. Mr. Nash's principal

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staff officer is Colonel H. L. T. Koren who will accompany Mr. Nash
when he comes to see you on Friday.

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3. In briefest terms the Nash Mission is to analyze the whole problem of U.S. retention of bases overseas in the light of the Soviet campaign to force withdrawal from these bases. The study contemplates the re-examination of arrangements and procedures, jurisdictions, extra-territorialities, and relations with local populations. The initial task of the group will be to acquire from overseas commands and embassies background information for their report. In this CIA might become involved in providing information, particularly a "general estimate of future trends of local sentiment and government attitude toward maintenance of U.S. operations."

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4. The Nash group has already requested through Colonel Koren that they be put on the distribution list for the Weekly Intelligence Digest-- which I have done.

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5. It is recommended that the following action be taken in regard to this study:

(a) A focal point within the Agency be designated to coordinate any details with the Nash group and to insure that they receive prompt and effective service. I would be glad to undertake this inasmuch as all three components of the Agency may be concerned


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(b) It is recommended that a dispatch be sent to those field stations that may be affected by the questionnaires now being issued by the Departments of State and Defense. Attachment "A" contains such a recommending dispatch.

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Leman B. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General

cc: DDCI (w/attachment "A" only)

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